

~~SECRET - EYES ONLY~~

29 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Resume of OCB Luncheon Meeting, 29 July 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Dulles, Mr. Gray, Mr. Harr, Mr. McCone,
Mr. Murphy, Mr. Riddleberger, Mr. Scribner,
Mr. Washburn, Mr. Smith1. Aid Programs in South Vietnam

Mr. Riddleberger opened a discussion of the recent series of articles in the Washington Dail News, by Mr. Colegrove, which have roundly criticized the administration of U.S. aid going to South Vietnam. He said that this matter is now scheduled for investigation by a subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, under the chairmanship of Senator Mansfield. Ambassador Durbrow has been called home from his post to testify and it is expected that he and ICA's Deputy Director Saccio, as well as Mr. Riddleberger will carry the brunt of the rebuttal testimony.

It was pointed out that not only are the implications and innuendoes in the Colegrove series exaggerated and unfair, but that the facts adduced are in many respects incorrect. This presents a situation in which Administration officials should be able to defend the program quite effectively.

2. Captive Nations Week

The DCI then turned to a discussion of the events leading up to the proclamation of Captive Nations Week, and the repercussions within the USSR, particularly in connection with the Vice President's visit. He said that in his opinion the timing and content of the resolution and the proclamation were most unfortunate, and represent a failure of interagency coordination machinery. Mr. Murphy and the other

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members completely agreed. Mr. Washburn distributed a memorandum addressed to the OCB, sharply criticizing the entire exercise. (Memo attached to the original.)

Mr. Dulles commented particularly on the inclusion in the list of "captive nations" of such areas as Georgia, the Ukraine, and Idel-Ural. He pointed out that it has long been U.S. policy not to challenge Soviet hegemony over such areas as these, and said that their inclusion made it more difficult to carry on activities directed against the plight of those truly independent nations which have fallen into the Soviet orbit.

3. Afghanistan

Mr. Harr referred to a recent dispatch from Ambassador Byroade, in which the latter referred to certain deficiencies in the U.S. aid programs in that country, with particular reference to inadequate equipment.

4. American National Exhibition in Moscow

The next subject discussed was the stealing of books from the American Exhibition in Moscow and the removal of a number of books by Soviet authorities. A question was raised as to whether the books stolen could or should be replaced. The DCI commented that should this be attempted and should the Soviets become aware of it, they could undoubtedly turn the situation into a losing game for us by continuing to have as many books stolen as we were able to replace.

There was some discussion as to what books actually were removed by Soviet authorities, since the Embassy cable and published news reports do not entirely jibe on this point. Mr. Washburn agreed to secure an accurate list. Mr. Dulles also questioned whether some of the books listed as having been removed might not, in fact, have been unwisely selected in that they would be bound to give offense to the Soviets.

5. Raul Castro Interview

The DCI distributed copies of the FBIS report of the Chinese hellschreiber release on the subject of an interview granted by Raul Castro to Chinese journalists. It was noted that Raul had taken a strong pro-Communist line, among other things comparing Chiang

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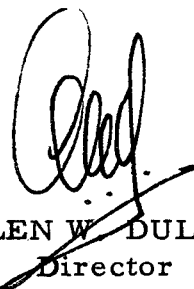
Kai-shek to Batista. The DCI cautioned that this report must be evaluated in the light of its source, but commented that it probably was essentially true.

6. Situation in Laos

The DCI called the group's attention to the worsening situation in Laos, referring to several State and CIA cables on this subject. He said that it is too early to assess the true situation with all its ramifications, but noted that eventual Communist takeover was a possibility.

7. World Youth Festival

The Director then summarized the events going on in Vienna in connection with the Communist World Youth Festival, pointing out that things were not going as well for the Communist managers as they might have hoped.



31 JUL 1959

ALLEN W. DULLES
Director

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July 29, 1959

MEMORANDUM TO MEMBERS OF THE OCB

SUBJECT: Timing of Captive Nations
 Week Observance

Captive Nations Week has haunted the Vice President on every day of his stay in the U.S.S.R. Issued on the eve of his departure for Moscow, and in the very week of the opening of the American Exhibition -- the timing could not have been more inept.

The coordination of this exercise appears to have fallen between the stools. Congress had originally wanted the week of July 4, the resolution did not even come to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. No one at a high level in State or DDA apparently considered the matter of timing and coordination. The White House did not get into it beyond the routine signing of the proclamation by the President. The OCB did not consider the matter.

Every day this one that the OCB should have gotten into. Could a call from Sect. State to Senator Fulbright have deferred the observance until after the VP's trip and after the close of our Exhibition. Should procedures be set up by the OCB to head off this kind of bad timing in the future?

A. W.
 Abbott Washburn
 Acting Director

Attachment: - Excerpt from Walter Lippmann's column of July 27, 1959.

Excerpt from Walter Lippmann's
column, July 17, 1957

* * * Mr. Nixon will be all the more open to this charge
[politicking] after the absent-minded bumble of Congress and
the President in proclaiming this week, of all weeks, 'Captive
Nations Week.'

The resolution on the captive nations was adopted without
debate by the Senate on July 6. The resolution had not come to
the Senate from the Foreign Relations Committee which would
be concerned with such matters. The resolution came from the
Committee on the Judiciary, of which the chairman is that
notorious lover of liberty, Mr. Eastland of Mississippi.